

M E R C A T O R:

O R,

Commerce Retrieved,

B E I N G

CONSIDERATIONS on the State of the *British* Trade, &c.

From Saturday, July 18. to Tuesday, July 21. 1713.

The Objection of our Exportations to France being trivial, and of no Consideration, is the only remaining Cavil of the Opposers of the Treaty.

That Objection stated in their own Words.

An Account of the Exportations of Woollen Manufactures from England to France in the Year 1686-7, amounting to near 300,000 l.

The Leather, Lead, Tin, and Pewter, Exported the same Year, amounted to near 100,000 l. more.

A List of the Particulars of the Woollen Manufactures Exported that Year; taken from the Custom-house Accounts.

The Exportations by Certificate to come in the next Paper.

THE last *MERCATOR* mentioned something of the Disadvantages we are under, by having the Exportation of our Goods to France stopp'd, while the Importation of Goods from France is left open, which is the present State of our Trade, the Treaty not being made Effectual in Parliament.

The only popular Objection, which is made to this, and which we find is put into the Mouths of the Ignorant Manufacturers all over Britain, to byass and prepossess them, and to serve for Answers to those, who endeavour to convince them of their Mistake, is this, (viz.) "That France takes off very little of our Manufactures, and therefore that the Discourse of Prohibitions is nothing to the Purpose; that our Exportations to France are Trifling, Inconsiderable, and not worth naming, and Prohibiting our Goods going thither, is Prohibiting nothing at all; that our Importations from France are prodigious great, and over Ballance the Exportations above a Million per Annum; and, that therefore upon the whole, it is not fit for us to Trade with France at all.

It might indeed be enquir'd of those People, in order to Answer this Cavil, What then is it like to be now, when by the present Circumstance of our Trade, all our Exportations to France are Prohibited, and our Importations left open? If the French Trade was Injurious BEFORE, certainly it must undo us utterly, as we are to carry it on NOW.

Reserving this part to be Discours'd of afterward, it is needful to remove Difficulties as we go, and to give a little Sketch or Abstract of some part of our Exportations to France, such as may be depended upon, that thereby People may see, what kind of Trade it is, which they call Trivial; what kind of Trade they deprive themselves and their Country of; and what quantity of English Goods, and Goods of the English Commerce, have been sent to France in a Year, when the Trade with France was open on both Sides.

This Account shall be taken in the last Years of our open Trade with France; whereby the Wisdom of that Time will appear also, when we were so forward to Prohibit the Exportation of our own Woollen Manufactures to a Nation, which took such prodigious Quantities of them; when all the Wise Nations in the World have made it their Rule, and the Nature of Trade obliges them to it, (viz.) Never to restrain the Exportation or Consumption of their own Manufactures, the Labour of the People being the Essential part of the Nations Wealth.

In examining the Custom-House Books, and the Abstracts from thence deliver'd to the House of Commons, Signed by the proper Officers, it appears, That there was the following Quantities of Woollen Manufactures Exported from England to France, in one Year, besides very great Quantities of other kinds of Goods Exported the same Year, whose Species and Particulars are too long to come into the Compass of this Paper.

An

An Account of English Woollen Manufactures Exported to France from Michaelmas 1686. to Michaelmas 1687. Being a true Copy of what was laid before the Parliament by the Commissioners of the Customs; in which the Quantities Exported from the Port of London, and of those Exported from the Out-Ports, are distinguished; and the whole afterwards join'd together.

Sorts of the Woollen Manufactures Exported to France from Michaelmas 1686. to Michaelmas 1687.			Port of London.	Out-Ports.	Total.
Long Cloths	pieces	437	86½	523½	
Short Cloths	pieces	840	155	995	
Spanish Cloths	pieces	4928	149	5077	
Bays single	pieces	445½	1080½	1526	
Bays double	pieces	729	1809	2538	
Ditto Minikin	pieces	56	—	56	
Single dozens Yorkshire	pieces	1204	—	1204	
Ditto double	pieces	148	64½	212½	
Dorset and Devon dozens	pieces	—	5310	5310	
		—	& 64½	& 64½	
Kerfies Northern	pieces	2693	1997	4690	
Cloth Rashes	pieces	24	557½	581½	
Norwich Stuffs entred per l. weight } but reduced at 8 l. per piece }	pieces	484	1211	1695	
Serges and Perpets ditto 12l. per piece	pieces	5886	25569	31455	
Fustians	pieces	254	512	766	
Flannel	per yard	27578	9210	36788	
Frizes	per yard	26523	18010	44533	
Cottons and Plains	per goads	76181	45704	121885	
Worsted Hosi	per dozen	4330¾	—	4330¾	
Woollen	per dozen	7286	—	7286	
Pennystones friz'd	pieces	28	—	28	
Rugs and Coverlids	pieces	12	420	432	
Thrums per C. weight	—	—	3	3	
Wearing Apparel	parcels	21	—	—	
	per garment	201	—	—	
Wadmole	yards	306	—	—	
Stuffs mixt with Silk, and Silk Stockings	per l.	7314	307	7621	
Goods sworn ad Valorem	per l.	11874	193	11967	

It would be crowding the Reader with too many Particulars, to enumerate here the whole Exportation of the Year, and particularly of Foreign Goods, and Plantation Goods, Exported by Certificate; the present Subject is the Woollen Manufacture only: Afterward, when the value of the Exports and Imports to and from France, comes to be Discours'd of, these things may be cast together after another Manner, and you may see the Sums of Money these things particularly amount to. In the mean time, besides our Woollen Manufactures, England Exported to France the same Year, the value of Eighty two Thousand Nine hundred and ten Pounds eight Shillings, in the Two Articles of Lead and Pewter only; which is worth while to Note, because these are in some Sense to be reckoned our Manufacture: First, As they are the natural Produce of the Country; and Secondly, As they suffer several Operations or Manufactures, ere they are Exported, tho' they are not finally or compleatly Manufactured.

As to the Quantity of Goods above, tho' it is difficult to put an exact Valuation upon them, and the Opposers would not fail to alledge, that they were over-valued; yet if they please to Rate them by their own Scheme, however false and under-prized most things are there Estimated, to serve a Turn, yet by that Valuation, they will find the Manufactures above mentioned, Exported to France in one Year, amounted to Two hundred seventy four Thousand Six hundred fifty eight Pounds four Shillings; and the Articles of Leather, Lead, Tin and Pewter, which, as above, are our Produce, also amounted to above One hundred Thousand Pounds more. In all which, none of the Accounts of Fish, or of Exports from Scotland, are included.

What kind of Patriots those have been, who have shut the Door against the Return of such a Trade to us, time will shew us more at large; and in the mean time, the Loss of it will be felt by every part of the Nation.

Against this Account of our Exportations, Opposers to the Treaty of Commerce would be very kind, if they would let us know, what we must send to France for, the Year now running: Wines, and Brandies, Linnen, Paper, &c. we shall bring over for certain, as has been said already; neither Lead, Tin, Leather, Fish, or any Woollen Manufacture can be carried thither; they are all Prohibited, or over-loaded with Duties, so that the Dutch can carry them 40 per Cent. cheaper than the British. If we fetch a Million Sterling in French Goods this next Year, that Million must be paid for in Money; and the Gain of that is all owing to the Rejecting the 8th and 9th Articles; which Articles were guilty of no other Crime, than of giving us liberty to have sent British Manufactures to France, to have purchased those Wines, Brandies, &c. with, instead of ready Money.

The next *MERCATOR* shall give a brief Abstract of the Exportation of other Goods to France, such as are Exported by Certificate, being either the Growth of our own Plantations, or the Produce of our Trade to other Parts of the World; by which we shall see, whether a Trade to France be worth driving, yea, or no.

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